

Examiner Report	
Qualification Name	Higher Education Qualification
Qualification Level	Certificate in IT
Date/ Series	April 2024
Module	Computer and Network Technology
General Comments	
<p>Overall, a good pass rate for Section A which was improved in recent years. The quality of candidate writing and exam preparation was also much improved.</p> <p>For Section B an improvement overall on recent years with a higher number of marks achieved over past sessions. Attention to question mark allocation could still be improved in some cases.</p>	
Question no.	comments
A1	Overall candidates were prepared well for this question and were able to discuss the concept, the impact, and provide an example.
Question no.	comments
A2	Candidates struggled with this question, confusing some of the elements of the topic with other elements of the teaching syllabus. A common error here was to not discuss the elements highlighted in the questions. It was also common for candidates to write far more than required for a 2-mark question, which is an example of poor exam technique.
Question no.	comments
A3	Candidates did well to identify and provide detail around the subject in the initial part of this question, but often struggled with the application and use of the theory in an extended question.
Question no.	comments
A4	Candidates struggled with this question, confusing some of the elements of the topic with other elements of the teaching syllabus. A common issue was the confusion with the Fetch Execute Cycle, which was not a part of the question.

Question no.	comments
B5	<p>This question was not attempted by many candidates.</p> <p>For part a) and b) the majority of those that answered did not correctly identify the function of STP or NTP, confusing these with other network services.</p> <p>For part c) candidates identified some components of ethernet frames however full marks were not able to be given due to missing items.</p>
Question no.	comments
B6	<p>This question was a popular one among candidates with a majority receiving marks for part a), a number of candidates spent time writing details of peripheral device functions when the question only allowed 3 marks for listing three peripherals. This time could have been used better elsewhere on other marks available.</p> <p>For part b) the question focused on panel technology types however the majority of candidates listed TV types and did not identify the underlying panel technologies available and their advantages / disadvantages which lead to no marks being awarded in a number of cases.</p>
Question no.	comments
B7	<p>This question was a popular one among candidates and was well answered for both part a) and b) in the majority of cases with full working provided for answers allowing for full marks to be awarded.</p> <p>Candidates who did not receive full marks either did not include their working or arrived at incorrect conclusions.</p>
Question no.	comments
B8	<p>This question was not attempted by many candidates.</p> <p>For part a) candidates did not provide sufficient explanations often discussing processes other than peripheral polling.</p> <p>For Part b) an understanding of physical platter limitations was shown however full marks were often not awarded due to a lack of comparison with the benefits of flash storage.</p> <p>For part c) a limited number of candidates attempted a diagram of the fetch/execute cycle, descriptions of steps were limited which limited overall marks awarded in most cases.</p>
Question no.	comments
B9	<p>This question was a popular one among candidates.</p> <p>Part a) was well answered with the majority of candidates identifying the 7 layers of the OSI model. Some candidates spent time discussing the function of each layer when only 7 marks were available. This time could have been spent on other questions.</p> <p>Part b) was less understood amongst candidates however most identified some of the TCP/IP layers.</p>

	Part c) was well answered with most candidates correctly identifying a protocol and associated layer.
Question no.	comments
B10	<p>This question was not answered by many candidates.</p> <p>For part a) candidates were mostly unable to identify the comparison aspect of Benchmarking.</p> <p>For part b) units of measurement of network traffic was identified by most candidates however few identified a suitable testing method or tool which could be used.</p> <p>For part c) the significance of IOPS were not well understood.</p>
Question no.	comments
B11	<p>Part a) and b) were generally well answered by candidates however depth of functionality of routers and switches was not explained in sufficient detail for full marks available in most cases.</p> <p>Part c) Was not attempted by many candidates, those that did struggled to provide a full explanation with examples.</p> <p>Part d) was generally not well answered by candidates with a number discussing benefits of IoT devices in general rather than their specific impact to a network.</p>
Question no.	comments
B12	<p>This question was a popular one with candidates.</p> <p>For part a) most candidates were able to identify the three main common cloud service delivery models, marks were limited for some candidates due to not listing example services for each type or limited explanations. Platform as a Service was generally not well understood.</p> <p>For part b) some candidates focused on generic impacts such as running costs rather than effects of cloud migration on the employees of the organisation which was asked in the question.</p>